Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06731 130623Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 EB-08 SAA-01 /103 W

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R 121144Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8077

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 6731

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: GHULAM ISHAQ TO LEAD GOP DELEGATION TO MOSCOW

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 6174; (B) ISLAMABAD 5631

- 1. AUTHORITATIVE PAKISTAN TIMES REPORTS JULY 12 THAT HIGH-LEVEL TEAM OF GOP OFFICIALS LEDUBY GHULAM ISHAQ WILL DEPART FOR MOSCOW JULY 23.
- 2. ARTICLE REPORTS TEAM WILL BE CONCERNED MAINLY WITH ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION BETWEEN PAK AND USSR, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED SOVIET AID IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL MILLS (SIC) TO BE BUILT IN KARACHI.

3. BESIDES ISHAQ, WHO HOLDS FINANCE, PLANNING AND COORDINATION PORTFOLIOS, TEAM WILL INCLUDE CHAIRMAN OF STEEL MILLS CORPORATION AND OFFICIALS FROM MFA AND PRODUCTION DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF

FINANCE.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS MISSION AND ITS PARTICIPANTS, ESPECIALLY WHO WILL BE ALONG FROM MFA. GHULAM ISHAQ CAME AS CLOSE TO BEING DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER AS ANYONE COULD IN THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL OF ADVISORS; HE IS A SEASONED AND RETIRED CIVIL SERVANT WHO IS TOUGH AND WHO HAS BEEN MAKING THE CIVILIAN BUREAUCRACY WORK FOR PAKISTAN'S MARSHAL

LAW ADMINISTRATION. HIS PRESENT SET OF
PORTFOLIOS ADD FINANCE TO THOSE HE PREVIOUSLY HELD; IF HIS
"SENIOR-MOST" RANKING CARRIES WITH IT THE CONTINUATION OF HIS
PRE-EMINENT POSITION IN THE CABINET -- AS SEEMS LIKELY -- HE WILL
BE EFFECTIVELY GENERAL ZIA'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. HENCE, HIS
VISIT TO MOSCOW HAS FAR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE THAN THE RATHER
BLAND PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES. MOST OBSERVERS VIEW IT AS A
FIRST STEP IN A BROAD EXPLORATION WITH MOSCOW OF JUST WHAT COULD
BE INVOLVED FOR PAKISTAN IN AN EXERCISE OF PAKISTAN'S OPTION TO
SEEK IMPROVEMENT OF ITS RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW IN LIGHT OF THE
KABUL COUP OF APRIL, 1978.
HUMMEL

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PK, (ISHAQ, GHULAM)

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